

Decision 6/COP.8

Collaboration with the Global Environment Facility

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling its decisions 6/COP.6 and 6/COP.7 on collaboration with the Global Environment Facility (GEF), by which it adopted the memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and the GEF on enhanced collaboration,

Recognizing that addressing land and water issues of relevance to the objectives of this Convention contributes to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and maintaining essential ecosystem services,

Noting that the potential for UNCCD Parties to access funds through other multilateral agreements to which they are also party, such as climate change adaptation funding, should not replace the need to mobilize specific funds for the implementation of UNCCD national action programmes,

Welcoming the December 2006 decision of the GEF Council to invite the Fourth GEF Assembly to amend the Instrument for the Establishment of the Restructured Global Environment Facility to include the UNCCD among the listed conventions for which the GEF plays the role of financial mechanism;

Also welcoming the June 2007 decisions of the GEF Council which include, inter alia, the streamlining of the project cycle to accelerate availability of resources to countries, and the adoption of a revised Focal Area Strategy on Land Degradation for the fourth replenishment of the GEF (GEF-4) and of a cross-cutting Focal Area Strategy on Sustainable Forest Management, as well as development of a results-based management framework,

Further welcoming the fact that land use, land-use change and forestry (LULUCF) projects have been made eligible for GEF financing under the Climate Change Focal Area Strategy,

Mindful of concerns expressed over the allocation of funds to combat land degradation under GEF-4,

1. *Invites* the GEF effectively and expeditiously to implement the Focal Area Strategy on Land Degradation for GEF-4;
2. *Urges* developed country Parties and *invites* the GEF Council to provide in the fifth replenishment of the GEF adequate, timely and predictable financial resources, including new and additional financial resources, for the Focal Area on Land Degradation;

3. *Also invites* the GEF to facilitate access by affected country Parties, particularly those in Africa, to the full range of GEF funds available for the implementation of projects and programmes relating to land degradation and desertification;
4. *Recognizes* that the implementation of the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018) (The Strategy) requires mobilization of adequate, predictable and timely financial resources at both the national and the international levels for its effective implementation and, in this context, invites the GEF to consider simplifying its funding procedures in order to ease developing countries' access to GEF financial resources;
5. *Requests* the GEF secretariat, in the light of the MOU, to continue to inform the Conference of the Parties (COP) on how projects in GEF focal areas other than land degradation have contributed specifically to sustainable land management;
6. *Invites* the GEF to continue implementing the GEF Council decision taken at its May 2003 meeting, by which it recognized that when assisting affected country Parties under the next reporting cycle, the formulation of national, subregional or regional action programmes or national reports is considered to be a component in the framework of capacity-building projects, and thus eligible for funding,;
7. *Requests* the Global Mechanism in collaboration with the GEF implementing and executing agencies, to improve assistance to affected developing country Parties and other eligible country Parties, where appropriate, in identifying and accessing the co-financing from donors which is necessary to enable access to GEF project funding for land degradation projects, in conformity with The Strategy, while emphasizing the complementary role of the GEF;
8. *Requests also* the Executive Secretary to bring The Strategy, adopted at this COP, to the attention of the GEF Council;
9. *Further requests* the Executive Secretary of the UNCCD and the Chief Executive Officer/Chairperson of the GEF as a financial mechanism of the Convention to report to the COP at its ninth session on the implementation of this decision.

*9th plenary meeting
14 September 2007*